

Paddy Farrell

Patrick Guy Farrell was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1938. He received the BSc in Electrical Engineering from City University, London, UK, in 1965. After working on active and mechanical filters at AEI (Woolwich) Ltd, London, he did research on coding for noisy data links at the University of Cambridge, and was awarded the PhD in 1969. From 1968 to 1981 he was Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Electronics, and head of the Digital Communications Research Group, at the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK. In 1981 he was appointed Professor of Electrical Engineering and head of the Communications Research Group at the University of Manchester, UK, becoming Head of Electrical Engineering (1985-93). He was the first Head of the Manchester School of Engineering (1994-7), which merged the Electrical Engineering and the Engineering (mechanical, aeronautical and civil) Departments. In 1998 he moved to be Professor of Communications Engineering (part-time) at Lancaster University, UK, where he has been Visiting Professor since October, 2002. In 2005 he became an Honorary Professor at the University of Kent, UK.

His research, teaching and consultancy interests include error-correcting codes, information theory, digital communications, mobile radio, signal processing and electronic circuits, and he is author or co-author of over 300 papers, reports and presentations, including a recently published book (Essentials of Error-Control Coding, Wiley, 2006, with co-author J. Castiñeira Moreira). In 1980 he was awarded the Marconi Premium of the IEE as co-author of a paper entitled Soft-Decision Error Control Coding for HF Data Transmission, and during 1986 he was Fairchild Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the California Institute of Technology. A Fellow of the IET (formerly the IEE), he was Chairman of Professional Group E8 (Radiocommunication Systems) and of the Electronics Divisional Board (1990-1). From 1989 until 2001 he was a member of the former IEE NW Centre Committee, and Chairman in 1993-4. He was an elected member of the Senate of the Engineering Council (1995-7), Chairman of the Forum of Engineering Institutions in the North West (1994-6), and NW Professional Engineering Institutions Senator (1996-7). He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, Life Fellow and Millenium Medalist of the IEEE, and Fellow of the IMA. He was a member of the Professors and Heads of Electrical Engineering (PHEE) Committee (1997-2002), and until September 2005 was a member of the Communications Peer Review College of the EPSRC. His main hobbies are music (as a violinist), railways (especially of Argentina), and hiking.